

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9109
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, HABITAT
SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (ITEM 10)

1. AT CANADA'S SUGGESTION, WORKING GROUP REVERTED TO THE TEXT OF ANNEX I OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE REPORT (A/CONF 70/15) OF WHICH US WAS PRIME AUTHOR (SHIFF, US HABITAT COORDINATOR). EFFORT WAS THEN MADE TO AMEND THAT TEXT TO MAKE IT AS CLOSELY RESEMBLE SWEDISH/CANADIAN DRAFT AS POSSIBLE. (US TOOK ACTIVE ROLE IN RECOMMENDING MODIFICATIONS AND IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS). AFTER INITIAL RUN THROUGH, WHICH LEFT IN BRACKETS MAJOR CONTESTED QUESTIONS, WORKING GROUP ADJOURNED TO ALLOW INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PRINCIPALS. (FYI: WORKING GROUP IS ESSENTIALLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. END FYI).

2. RESULTING FROM THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, SWEDEN AS SPOKESMAN ALSO ON BEHALF OF CANADA, IDENTIFIED FOUR POINTS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE CORE ELEMENTS OF A FINAL DECISION. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:
--POINT I - THERE IS NEED FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY WHICH THEY DEFINED AS A COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS REPORTING TO ECOSOC. (IT WOULD REPLACE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING AND
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PLANNING).

--POINT II - TO SERVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY A CONSOLIDATED SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE CREATED, INCLUDING ALL ITEMS IDENTIFIED IN PARA 18 OF HABITAT CONFERENCE ANNEX. (IN ADDITION TO ELEMENTS SPECIFIED IN ORIGINAL CANADIAN/SWEDISH PROPOSAL, FOUNDATION WOULD BE ORGANICALLY CONSOLIDATED INTO NEW SECRETARIAT).

--POINT III - THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE HEADED BY AN ASYG, REPORTING TO THE SYG, THROUGH THE USYG FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.
--POINT IV - AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE SECRETARIAT'S WORK IS THAT THERE BE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH UNEP, AND THEREFORE IT SHOULD BE LOCATED IN PHYSICAL PROXIMITY TO UNEP.

3. NIGERIA, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP, RESPONDED BY STATING THAT PROPOSALS APPEAR GENERALLY REASONABLE WHEN ALL THE FACTS ARE PUT TOGETHER. THEY AGREED WITH CREATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY REPORTING TO ECOSOC AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF ALL ITEMS, INCLUDING THE FOUNDATION, INTO ONE SECRETARIAT. THEY EXPRESSED DIFFICULTY WITH THE NOTION OF HAVING THE HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT REPORT THROUGH THE USYG(ESA) TO THE SYG, AND FURTHER BELIEVED IT MORE RATIONAL AND APPROPRIATE THAT HE BE ON USYG. THEY AGREED WITH THE PREMISE THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO UNEP, I.E., NAIROBI.

4. THE PHILIPPINES AND JAMAICA EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN POSITION, ASKING, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR VIEWS ON THE FOUNDATION BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE AUSTRALIANS, WHILE INDICATING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT REPORTING TO THE SYG AND VIENNA, COULD SUPPORT ANY DECISION RECEIVING A CONSENSUS; POLAND ALSO SUPPORTED THE SWEDISH PROPOSAL. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY AT ALL OF RESOLVING THE IMPASSE, THESE ARE THE INGREDIENTS FOR IT, AND THEY WILL BE TAKEN UP WEDNESDAY MORNING 13.

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5. FYI: USDEL HAS DRAWN ON LONG CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYAN MINISTER OF WATER KIANO, HIS DIRECTOR GENERAL AND FOUR OTHER KEY HIGH OFFICIALS OF GOK WHO ARE IN GENEVA SPECIFICALLY TO DEAL WITH HABITAT INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. WE WERE ABLE TO CONVINCE KIANO TO AGREE TO BREAKING THE LINKAGE BETWEEN UNEP AND HABITAT THEREBY MAKING POSSIBLE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNING BODY AND AN INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT NOT NECESSARILY REPORTING THROUGH UNEP. WE ALSO HAVE RECEIVED CLOSE COOPERATION OF TANZANIAN PERMREP SALIM WHO BECAME INTERESTED IN ITEM WHILE TRANSITING GENEVA AND HAS ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTED US POSITION. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE TWO RESIDUAL ISSUES ON WHICH THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL TURN ARE (A) ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE USYG LEVEL (TO INSTITUTIONALIZE PARITY WITH UNEP) AND (B) TO HAVE THE GOVERNING BODY OF HABITAT REPORT TO THE GA THROUGH ECOSOC. THESE HAVE BEEN THE MOST INTRACTABLE POSITIONS IN THE STRETCH, STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED BY THE G-77. IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT ALL DELS EXCEPT THE FRENCH WILL FINALLY ACQUIESCE ON THESE TWO RESIDUAL QUESTIONS. IF THIS PACKAGE CAN BE HELD TOGETHER IT APPEARS TO US THAT WE WOULD HAVE ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF THE DESIRED US-WEO POSITION.
END BYI.

6. RECOMMENDATION: THE USDEL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE US

SUPPORT THE CONSENSUS EFFORT. WE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT AFTER
EXTENSIVE INTRICATE NEGOTIATIONS, EXTENDING OVER ONE YEAR, WE
ARE AT THE POINT WHERE SUCCESS OR FAILURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE,
AND A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE COULD DETERMINE THE OUTCOME.
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